

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2008. Claims 1, 6-10, 13, and 15-19 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 19 are in independent form. Claim 4 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 6-10, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,607,314 (*McCannon et al.*); and that Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCannon et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 (*Gase et al.*). Cancellation of Claim 4 renders its rejection moot. For at least the following reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 10, and 19, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus having a plurality of print control modules, including first and second print control modules, for performing processing corresponding to printer functions, where each print control module supports a plurality of types of printers. The information processing apparatus also has a management table that contains identification information of the first print control module, version information of the first print control module, and printer type information regarding types of printers supported by the first print control module. The information processing apparatus includes: (1) an obtaining unit configured to obtain, from the second print control module, version information of the second print control module and printer

type information on printers supported by the second print control module; (2) an updating unit configured to update the management table by recording identification information of the second print control module, and the version information and the printer type information obtained by the obtaining unit in the management table, if at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module obtained by the obtaining unit is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control module contained in the management table and if the version information of the second print control module obtained by the obtaining unit is newer than the version information of the first print control module contained in the management table; (3) a recognition unit configured to recognize a printer type of a certain printer; (4) a selection unit configured to select one of the first and second print control modules in correspondence with the printer type recognized by the recognition unit by referring to the management table updated by the updating unit; and (5) an execution unit configured to execute the print control module selected by the selection unit.

Notable features of Claim 1 are that the information processing apparatus includes the claimed management table, obtaining unit, and updating unit. By virtue of these features, the information processing apparatus is enabled to select one of a plurality of versions of a print control module (e.g., a printer driver), which may support a plurality of types of printers, when a printer is connected to the information processing apparatus, so that the newest version of a printer driver is selected from among the plurality of versions, and such that the selection is realized for each of the types of printers, for example¹ (see page 4, line 26, to page 5, line 18 of

^{1/} The example(s) presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes only. Any details presented in the illustrative example(s) should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

the specification). The information processing apparatus refers to the management table to select the newest version of the printer driver for each printer, in response to a recognition of a printer type of a connected printer. The management table includes identification information, version information, and printer information. As shown in FIG. 4, first identification information "PRINT CONTROLLING MODULE 1" identifies a first print control module, first version information "1.0.0" identifies a version for the first print control module, and first printer type information "A, B, C" identifies types of printers supported by the first print control module. The obtaining unit obtains, from a second print control module, version information for the second print control module and printer type information regarding types of printers supported by the second print control module. If at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module obtained by the obtaining unit is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control module contained in the management table and if the version information of the second print control module is newer than the version information of the first print control module, the updating unit updates the management table by recording identification information, version information, and printer type information of the second print control module obtained by the obtaining unit in the management table. For example, because at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module (*i.e.*, printer types A and B) is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control unit (*i.e.*, printer types A and B), and because the version information of the second print control module (*i.e.*, 2.0.0) is newer than the version information of the first print control module (*i.e.*, 1.0.0), the updating unit updates the management table by recording the version information and the printer type information obtained

by the obtaining unit regarding the second print control module. FIG. 4 shows second identification information "PRINT CONTROLLING MODULE 2" identifying the second print control module, second version information "2.0.0" identifying a version of the second print control unit, and second printer type information "A, B, D" for the second print control module. As stated above, these features enable the information processing apparatus to select and execute the newest one of the first and second print control modules that supports a recognized printer, for example (see FIG. 6 and Step S18 of FIG. 8).²

McCannon et al. relates to automatic updating of device drivers and other software routines. Apparently, *McCannon et al.* teaches that a printer 10 may have local access to a database of device drivers through a local network server 40 for downloading a latest version of a printer driver 16 (col. 6, lines 40-42). *McCannon et al.* discusses that the local network server 40 also may provide access to Internet 44 for downloading device drivers from a remote device driver database, for example, a manufacturer's printer driver website (col. 6, lines 42-45). *McCannon et al.* also discusses that, while the latest version of the printer driver 16 is shown stored in a memory of printer 10, information may be abbreviated to include an indication of the latest version number of the printer driver and a pointer to an appropriate database 42 or 46 for obtaining a copy of that latest version (col. 6, lines 49-53). As best understood by Applicant, *McCannon et al.* is silent regarding obtaining version information and printer type information from a print control module and updating a management table based on the information obtained from the print control module.

^{2/} The example(s) presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes only. Any details presented in the illustrative example(s) should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

Nothing has been found in *McCannon et al.* that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus having a plurality of print control modules, including first and second print control modules, and further having a management table that contains identification information of the first print control module, version information of the first print control module, and printer type information on printers supported by the first print control module, wherein the information processing apparatus includes an obtaining unit and an updating unit configured as set forth in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *McCannon et al.*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 10 and 19 include features similar to those of Claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, Claims 10 and 19 also are believed to be patentable over *McCannon et al.* for at least the reasons discussed above.

A review of *Gase et al.* has failed to reveal anything that would cure the above-noted deficiencies of *McCannon et al.*


The other rejected claims in the present application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable over the references relied on in the Office Action for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank A. De Lucia
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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